

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
TRANSPORTATION, TREASURY,
HUD, USPS, JUDICIARY AND D.C.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
SCIENCE, STATE, JUSTICE,
COMMERCE AND NASA

ASSISTANT MAJORITY WHIP



JOHN CULBERSON
7TH DISTRICT, TEXAS

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
1728 LONGWORTH BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-4307
202.225.2571
FAX 202.225.4381

DISTRICT OFFICE:
10000 MEMORIAL DRIVE, SUITE 620
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77024-3490
713.682.8828
FAX: 713.680.8070

INTERNET:
WWW.CULBERSON.HOUSE.GOV

March 15, 2007

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Chairman, Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs
Appropriations
HB-26, the Capitol
Washington, DC 20515-6021

The Honorable Frank Wolf
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs
Appropriations
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-6021

Dear Chairman Lowey and Ranking Member Wolf,

I am respectfully requesting \$500 million for drinking water supply projects in the Development Assistance account of the FY2008 State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations bill.

Congress committed itself to making "access to safe water and sanitation for developing countries a specific policy objective of the United States foreign assistance programs" by signing into law H.R. 1973, the Senator Paul Simon Water for the Poor Act in the 109th Congress. I support the continued funding of this objective in the FY2008 Appropriations bill. By building rural water wells, improving basic facilities for water provision and sanitation, and providing access to clean water, the U.S. government can make a profound difference in Africa and countries around the world. For the small expense of drilling a well and ensuring its maintenance, local people will enjoy a longer, healthier life. It will also free the hardship of those who must travel miles for clean water, usually women and children.

The United States is committed to halting the rapid spread of HIV in Africa and treating those who are currently infected. Clean water is an essential ingredient in preventing the spread of many illnesses and the treatment of those suffering with AIDS. Without it, weakened immune systems quickly fall victim to water-borne microbes and pathogens. Over 300 million people in Africa, most in rural areas, still do not have access to a safe water supply and adequate sanitation, and almost half of all Africans suffer from water and sanitation-related diseases.

For every \$1 spent on water development, there is an economic return of \$3 - \$34 depending on the region, making water development one of our most practical foreign investments. Appropriating this money through U.S. non-profit organizations, such as the Millennium Water Alliance (MWA) helps Congress minimize losses due to corruption and waste, magnify the good works and charity of the United States and its citizens, and leverage additional funds through the private sector.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



John Culberson
Member of Congress

*Thank you
madam Chairman!*